

ANDY WALKER

Hello again and what a busy month it's been for yours truly. I've now left oldies station Mi Amigo and joined a cable station in Central London doing three, 2-hour breakfast shows a week. Plus over Easter I got roped into running a Bank Holiday station in North-West Kent, WNKR on FM and to top the lot off, I'm getting things together for the WFRL broadcast at the end of the month, then another 2 week holiday in Ibiza.

Onto the news and as most of you will know, the new offshore station for China, the Voice of Democracy is firmly on her way to the East China Sea. Backed by French "Actuel Magazine" and UK publication "The Face" with further income from the Federation for a Democratic China (FDC), everything is set for broadcasting an exciting mixture of Western music and free speech aimed at the Chinese people. It seems likely that output will be on SW so to cover the vast size of China. What frequencies will be used we don't know yet, but stay tuned to your receiver, the signal could be heard here in Europe. It's been claimed that the BBC has helped with the project, but this is unconfirmed information. But we must remember there are BBC journalists on board.

Talking about the BBC, I understand the BBC2 "Arena" programme is to film a documentary about Radio Caroline covering the re-building of the station since last August. My informant tells me it should be finished by September, if this is the case, keep those VCRs warmed up with a nice new cassette. I must say, it's good to hear some good presenters on board the Ross, I'm actually listening to Caroline again, something I have'n't done for a long time, and I don't mind admitting to it. The likes of Gates and Harriss are not good presenters, despite what some people have said, we all know a good DJ when we hear one, and it's good to hear some professional voices on the Lady. It seems that some people are afraid to say anything bad about Caroline, especially the anoraks. Well screw you, everyone has an opinion and I'm voicing mine, and hopefully you will as well. The aforementioned people no doubt helped in re-building the station after the raid and well done, but keep them off the air, Caroline is sounding better now than she has for years.

ACTIVITY MAGAZINE

Monthly Short/Medium Wave News

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3 GREENWAY, HAROLD PARK, ROMFORD, ESSEX,
RM3 0HH, ENGLAND.

SHORTWAVE BST Unless Stated

GREAT BRITAIN Radio Orion continue to be one of the most regular stations on SW with long transmissions each Sun on 6299. During Apr, programmes came from Mike Wilson, Paul Johnson and Paul Fraser. There was an additional broadcast from the "Big Bad O" on Good Friday. Reception remains strong with solid modulation (sometimes over!). Add: Box 1280, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8SG, England.

Radio Pamela Int'l are also very active with regular appearances since their return a few months back. Active Suns 1 (test in afternoon), 8, Easter Sun (afternoon again with Pirate Andy show in Ger/Eng) and 29. Outside Suns, Pamela could be heard late at night 0000-0200 on Sats 31 Mar, and Apr 7, 14 and 28. Daytime extras were Sats 7 (afternoon test) and 28 (back to back music and anns 1030-1300). Regular DJs are Steve Most and DJ Rob. At the end of the month the power was further increased to possibly 90 watts with the tx tested with this is mind Thu night 26 Apr (heard 2317) with an LP from the Eagles. All transmissions are taking place on 6224 which is fine for day use although perhaps not always as good at night. Phone: (0634) 573500. Add: Steve Most, 131 Napier Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4HH, England. Very few QSLs are left but some completely new ones will be printed soon.

Wonderful Free Radio London made a welcome return to the airwaves for the first of their 5th Sun broadcasts on Sun 29 Apr 1000-1400 and celebrated their 4th anniversary in the process (congrats!). Two channels were used, 6275

(some trouble from NISWRS) and 15729 (weak here due to skip). Programmes included Andy Walker with "Classic Rock", "Tender Trip" with Iain Johnstone and the "WFRL Story" tracing the station's 4 years on air with some memories and airchecks etc. A new idea inserted into the broadcast were hourly free radio news headlines read by Terry Philips. Next 5th Sun transmission will be in June.

Radio Tina are SWs newest addition and are very much Pamela's sister station, they use a 50 watt tx built by Steve Most although due to site problems can only use an indoor antenna in the loft which usually will reduce the overall signal. But they were heard late Sat 7 Apr 0000-0200 (test - weak) and Sun 22 Apr with a long broadcast 0800-1200, both times on 6210. DJ Rob runs the station and received 3 letters for the latter broadcast. Rob's the former op of Radio Radar which broadcast a few years back on the 6.7 MHz band and were duly raided. Letters to Rob c/o 131 Napier Road, Gillingham, etc etc.

Radio Confusion were active over the Easter weekend which started with an unusual early Sat evening broadcast 1900-2000 (6308), then later the same night (Easter Sat) 0015-0215 (6298 - but long skip) and then a 4-hour transmission on Easter Monday 1115-1520 (6308) with op Steve Midnight taking on-air calls from Steve Collins (TCR), Howard Bell (Radio 48) and Bill (DX-20). The station expects to be back over this holiday weekend coming. QSL cards will soon be available for listeners. Add: 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG.

Britain Radio Int'l only managed one broadcast during the month due to Roger Davis having personal troubles, this was Sun 22 Apr on 6232 between 1000-1330 (30 mins reduction). Roger Davis had an extended show which featured some records from the pop charts in Apr 1977. Steve West returned to the "BRI Radio File" at 1200 and then there was another programme to close. In June, BRI will be celebrating their 10th anniversary and we can expect a special transmission for the occasion, rumours suggest this could last for some six hours! Salisbury add.

Radio Freedom Int'l carried out their 1st/3rd Sun transmissions in Apr although ran into problems on Sun 15 Apr when they found Dutch station Radio Orang Utan were again using the channel they had made known to the DX world for their 1st/3rd Sun use. Most ops take note of such schedules and as RECCs Norman Nelson commented, it's not in free radio's interest for such things to happen. Freedom finally began an hour later than usual at 1100 with op Alan Kidd complaining about OU. The last Sat night transmission went out on Sat 28 Apr from 2100 until late but the BBC transmitter on 6195 caused some splatter despite a good signal from the Scottish station. The effects of this QRM appeared less around 0000 even though the Beeb were still on, but with a weaker signal. Regular frequency for RFI is 6205, take note! Contact add: Dept R, 67 Elm Row, Edinburgh, EH7 4AQ, Scotland.

Radio Stella Int'l are still operating from Ireland via help from WABC but are based in Scotland hence their mention in this section (country of origin is how we decide). The station only appears to be interested in nights at the moment and have been quite active in the past month. Heard Sat 31 Mar, Sats 7, 14 and 28 Apr on 6319 (all late nights). Fair signals usually dominate except for Easter Sat when long skip was evident (very weak), the best came over the past weekend when a good signal was noted. Presenter Jock Wilson is now featuring night-time free radio recordings amongst the oldies. Add: 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, EH12 5YR, Scotland.

Total Control Radio returned to the airwaves following a long break Sat night 31 Mar and then again with a repeat programme Sun 1 Apr 1230-1330 on 6275. An improved signal was evident on the latter (TCR is now using an outdoor antenna) although for some time the modulation was low. Op Steve Collins is aware of this and hopes to make amends on the next transmission from TCR.

Radio East Coast Commercial were active Sun 1 Apr and Norman couldnt resist playing an April Fool saying that RECC were broadcasting in stereo! The regular "DX Programme" duly followed. Again the station were heard Suns 8 and 22 Apr, also to much surprise early evening on Sat

28 Apr 1845-1912* with repeat programmes and Laser tapes, presumably this was a test. On Sun 8 Apr they had an early close at 1300 with Norman mentioning the rumoured criticism of RECC by FM station Radio Britannia of Rotherham, over RECC's report of the DTI raid on Veronica FM of Bradford. Norman asked Kenny Crescendo of Britannia to write in and either deny or confirm the rumours.

Weekend Music Radio convinced some people on April Fools Day that they were closing down forever after their sombre broadcast on 6313 which went off at 1200! A great deal of hoax reasons were given for the "decision to close". Easter Sun an attempt was made to relay Radio Dublin off-air also this didn't work too well due to the quality. WMR expect to be back on 15 MHz within the next month or so, especially if the propagation conditions are favourable and recently they have been good up there!

Freesound Radio could be heard Easter Sat (regular 2nd Sat broadcast) and again on Sun 29 Apr on the usual frequency of 6200. Hosts are Mark King (op), Steve West and Richard Grahame. Add: Via Salisbury, Wilts.

Radio Mi Amigo were relayed onto shortwave 6206 on Sat 31 Mar 1500-1800 but this was not a good channel for them to use due to the strong BBC tx on 6195 which caused trouble from 1600. Programmes featured the last (for the time being) Andy Walker show for the London FM oldies station now being run by Terry Philips.

DX-20 had several QSOs with other operators during the month but late Easter Sun could be heard testing out a new modulator in preparation for the station project which should get off the ground in the very near future. A strong signal could be heard here and the mod sounded good. A name has already been decided upon for what will be another new station to the SW scene, but op Bill will wait until the first broadcast to reveal it.

Falcon Radio seems to have gone quiet recently, all we've heard in Apr was continuous music on 6870 on Sun 1 Apr at 1017 with a good signal. The same approach (cont mx) was noted in Mar on 6848 with only one broadcast giving an ID or announcement at a regular interval.

Radio Gemini made a rare appearance Sun 18 Apr on 6218, perhaps a risky frequency although Gemini do only use about 100 watts which is enough though! A female DJ was heard shortly before the station went off at 1200.

Radio Gloria still QSOs quite regularly on 6315 but little has been heard in the way of programmes. Last QSO noted was Sun 1 Apr at 1400.

Northern Ireland Shortwave Relay Service has come back during the month, our first experience of them came on Sun 29 Apr on 6273 but they were causing a heterodyne to WFRL up on 6275. Relays are not so common on SW these days compared to a few years back so perhaps the name is misleading? Remember the Rainbow, SFRN and Westside relays, all of which are now completely defunct!

Now to April Fools Day where along with WMR and RECC, the following hoaxes were heard: Radio Ghandi on 6210 with a spoof of an ethnic station, Voice of the Leek on 6240, the old Apollo hoax coming from Wales! Radio West Coast Commercial on 6291, an RECC spoof-aaahhh! Wee Guy Radio or WGRL on 6291, this was indeed a "wee guy" apparently using his parent's ham tx while they were asleep but he was outside his bedroom and said he'd have to climb back up the drainpipe! By the way, this was in the early hours (around 0230) of 1 Apr during a QSO with other stations (Pamela, PFBS and DX-20) who all seemed rather bemused!

WFRL Update They actually started around 0730 on Sun 29 Apr with American radio tapes and then Keith Archer at 0900. Andy Walker checked the 6275 channel before turning on the tx and is annoyed that the NISWRS took no notice of this fact. The moral is for NISWRS, and others: Always check the frequency you want to use before you come on and if WFRL are on or someone else is, or if there's a station scheduled to come on-stay off!!! WFRL had gone to a lot of trouble to put together their broadcast and it's just not on to part-spoil it with a heterodyne etc.

THE CONTINENT Passion Radio has made a few night-time appearances during the month on 6230, Sats 14 and 21 they could be heard during the evening (21 Apr afternoon as well). On the former a phone line was available which

listeners could call and leave their number and the Passion op would call them back to talk over the air. The signal on both evenings was very good indeed. Add: Box 19074, 3501 DB Utrecht, Holland.

Free Radio Service Holland are now back on the air following a long break, a one hour test took place Sun 18 Mar and regular programmes were back on Sun 22 Apr. A 3rd Sun schedule is still intended by FRS. All programmes have gained new ideas and new jingles are now ready. FRS state they'd like a good feedback from their audience. Add: Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, Holland.

Radio Waves Int'l/World Communication Service was the joint ID used especially over the Easter weekend (Sat, Sun and Mon) on 6320. The French station is now alone on shortwave from this country, Radio DJ closed a while back whilst Radio Luce seems to be presently inactive. Other projects have been mentioned over the past year (for example-Sunshine) but have not been heard on air. At least not by us or many other people either.

Voice of Europe are now transmitting on a new frequency of 7539 and are sounding better for it, it's difficult to say if programmes have really started since all we've heard is continuous music and anns, perhaps that's all they intend to do? Some jingles are now being using just saying (or singing really) "This is the Voice of Europe". The station claims to transmit from a location between Venice, Italy and the Yugoslavian border.

Radio Marabu planned to be on at Easter but were not heard by us, programmes were heard a week later though on Sat 21 Apr via RWI on 6320. Alternative music was played and included a show in English from Phil Abbott (who used to be on BRI years back) before they cut off suddenly at 1341. T-shirts, pens etc are available. Add: 3 adds, most common are Wuppertal and Utrecht.

Pirate Freaks Broadcasting Service could be noted late 31 Mar on 6284 with fair strength which went to strong at 0200 during QSOing. Sun 1 Apr PFBS were on 7481 (1027). Add: Box 19074, 3501 DB Utrecht, Holland. Expect PFBS to be fairly active this summer during evenings/night-time.

Radio Charlene made a rare appearance on Easter Mon on 7435 (perhaps via own tx?) with fair to good reception and programmes in both German and English. Last known add: Box 65027, 3002 DA Rotterdam, Holland.

Radio Rebel Int'l are the first free SW voice to be produced in the "new" East Germany and were heard on Good Friday via Radio Karibu on 6309. Karibu had their own programmes afterwards. When the two Germanys re-unite, we could expect to hear a few more stations from the East? Add: Box 130, 92504 Rueil-Malmaison Cedex, France.

Radio Orang Utan were active Easter Sun on 6206 with an oldies programme, reception was strong but the broadcast managed to annoy Freedom Scotland who had their 3rd Sun broadcast ready to go on the air only to find our "monkey of the medium wave" sitting on "their" frequency!

Voice of the Netherlands had a short QSO with Passion Radio Sat 21 Apr at 2136 and were using 6239. It seems VOTN 7 MHz transmissions are non-existent of late despite being quite regular a while back. Perhaps the op has displayed some caution after hearing about his station mentioned by officials in the recent raid on fellow Dutch station Radio London. After all, the other station who were mentioned in the raid, Rainbow Radio Germany, were raided a week later.

Radio Manderine were logged with a relay via RWI 6320 Sun 22 Apr at 1009, an extremely rare appearance, this is the first time we've "caught" this one. Add: Utrecht.

IRELAND Jolly Roger Radio continues to be fairly active with transmissions both night and day on 6229. The station has recently been graced by Harry Harrison who sounds like someone off Laser in his style, that is fast and furious "hot hits"! JRR were heard via 6320 also in Apr with American rock music, probably with our man Harry again. Add: Box 39, Waterford, Eire.

Ozone Radio has been heard most Suns recently on 6820 and Prince Terry seems to be getting back to the weekly broadcasts enjoyed by Westside Radio who used to be ever-regular. They were "back live" on Easter Sun. Salisbury.

NEW ZEALAND Southern Music Radio is the new name for 4IFR, the format will be to play mainly music from Australia and New Zealand as well as cover what is happening on the New Zealand radio scene. Ocassionally SMR will play music which is not from Australia or New Zealand. The first SMR programme goes out via Radio Waves Int'l in May and will include a 13 mins special about Radio Hauraki on their move to FM together with recordings. QSLs are available, just write to SMR, c/o RWI, BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex, France. Good luck to SMR with this new project, we hope to hear you soon in the coming month!

UNITED STATES Andrew Yoder, editor of "Pirate Pages", makes this statement regarding the US logs in our last issue made by Jim Willet via FRNS, "Regarding the US pirate logs: You guys got horked! That guy's a total fake! I know the op of KQSB - he hasn't turned on a receiver or transmitter in years, the Crystal Ship hasn't been on since 1984 and NO-ONE heard 'em up on 20m. I believe Radio Bag was another one on 3406?? Barely anyone heard them- and that was in 1983/84 ONLY! Watch out for these fakies! I've been getting fake reports from Europe for a while now - not lots, but some. I've forwarded 'em thru to Samurai Radio, VoPurple Pumpkin etc. Remember - if we aren't hearing it in the US, you probably won't hear it in Europe! We are fairly well up on our scene, after all". Thanks AY for your comment, we can only say to Jim in Grimsby, "the ball's in your court". How about some real evidence such as a tape recording or something???

Samurai Radio expected to carry out a test Easter Sat at 2100 and 0000 UTC on 15050 approxiametely. Also, perhaps at other times. No reports of reception however here in Europe. Radio USA also hoped to be on as well.

So with the peak period for high frequency reception (15 MHz for example) over distance now upon us it's worth checking those high bands. Previous Atlantic "hoppers" were heard on Sat nights anywhere 1800-0200 BST on the 15000-15100 region. If you're really very interested in this then check your antenna. We actually find that a 12 foot indoor wire (direct to telescopic) easily outperforms our outdoor dipole (half-wave) for 48 metres, between at least 15 and 30 MHz!

STATIONS ACTIVE ON STATESIDE RECENTLY					c/o "Pirate Pages"
Sat	24 Mar	Rockabilly Radio	7413	0255	60s music (test)
Sat	30 Mar	Hope Radio	7388	0116	R.Clandestine r.
Sat	30 Mar	Hope Radio	7385	0300	Comedy Club rel.
Sun	1 Apr	Voice of the Ken-	7487	0002	April Fool
		tucky Fried Rodent			
Sun	1 Apr	4th of July Radio	7410	0100	DJ Jeff Johnson
Sun	1 Apr	WGAR	7415	0101	Bored DJ
Sun	1 Apr	WXZR	7400	0300	Test
Sun	1 Apr	Radio USA	7395	0324	Comedy pgms
Mon	2 Apr	Vo Monotony	7415	0108	Rock music
Fri	6 Apr	One Voice Radio	7413	0029	free radio views
Sat	7 Apr	Radio Free Yesteryear	7400	0237	Fake ads
Sat	7 Apr	Radio Comedy Club	7521	0533	Comedy
Sun	8 Apr	WENJ	7416	0011	50s/60s oldies
Sun	8 Apr	Rockabilly Radio	7412	0024	Mid-50s R'billy
Sun	8 Apr	Vo Monotony	7415	2229	Short broadcast
Sun	8 Apr	Radio Mauser WW	7493	2140	Rock music
Sun	8 Apr	CHGO	7415	2341	60s/70s rock
Mon	9 Apr	WXZR	7490	0010	On after Mauser

EUROS HEARD IN NORTH AMERICA RECENTLY					c/o "Pirate Pages"
Sat	3 Mar	Vo Netherlands	15046	2006	Poor
Mon	5 Mar	Vo Europe	7557	0156	Poor
Fri	9 Mar	Vo Europe	7557		0430-0500 peak
Sun	11 Mar	Rainbow Radio	6240	0542	Weak
Sun	11 Mar	Vo Netherlands	15046	0700	Fair signal!
Sun	11 Mar	Radio Stella Int'	16320	0729	Weak
Sun	11 Mar	Quality Radio	15058	1118	Poor
Sun	18 Mar	Radio Stella	6320	0455	Few clear IDs
Sun	18 Mar	Rainbow Radio	6240	0606	Very weak
Sun	25 Mar	Radio Stella	6320	0400	Weak (tent)
Sat	31 Mar	PFBS	15050	2314	Poor (test NA)
Sun	1 Apr	Radio Stella	6320	0517	Very weak
Sun	8 Apr	Radio Stella	6319	0259	Mainly Poor

All times here are UTC. US East Coast Time is 5 hours behind UTC. Stateside list inclusive 24 Mar-9 Apr. Euros list 3 Mar-8 Apr. We hope you find it interesting!

New add for "Pirate Pages" as of mid-April: PiPa, PO Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. Send a few IRCs.

EASTER WEEKEND IN EUROPE

Stations noted by us

Good Friday, 13th April

6291	DX-20	at 1424	QSO w/Orion/CnFision
6298	Radio Confusion	at 1515	QSO w/Orion/DX-20
6299	Radio Orion	at 1108	3 hour broadcast
6305	Radio Rebel Int'l	at 1002	via Karibu
6305	Radio Karibu	at 1007	Own programmes

Easter Saturday, 14th April

6200	Freesound Radio	at 1111	2nd Sat broadcast
6230	Passion Radio	at 2115	Good signal!
6308	Radio Confusion	at 1933	Fair/Good
6319	Radio Stella Int'l	Sun 0214	Weak (long skip)
6320	WCS/Radio Waves Int'l	at 1001	Offshore tapes

Easter Sunday, 15th April

6205	Radio Freedom Int'l	at 1106	on after OU
6206	Radio Orang Utan	at 1000	mostly oldies
6224	Radio Pamela Int'l	at 1359	Pirate Andy show
6229	Jolly Roger Radio	at 1014	"Hot Hits"
6290	Weekend Music Radio	at 1356	Weak
6291	DX-20	Mon 0007	Mod test, strong
6299	Radio Orion	at 1154	Usual programmes
6309	DX-20	Mon 0034	Repeat CQ call
6320	World Comm Service	at 1030	Also at 1514
6820	Ozone Radio	at 1109	Good on narrow

Easter Monday, 16th April

6229	Jolly Roger Radio	at 1020	
6308	Radio Confusion	at 1130	4 hour broadcast
6320	World Comm Service	at 0958	
7435	Radio Charlene	at 1007	Fair/Good

All times here are BST! Perhaps an overall unimpressive Easter compared to recent years. Last Easter Mon (1989) for example there were 8 stations noted here together with a handful of UNIDS. No sign of BRI or, special broadcasts from WMR. We hope it's not an omen for the summer which is almost here in England with recent days being hot. In fact, it's been the hottest April for some 60 years and London's been attacked by smog!

MEDIUM WAVE

Radio Pamela is still going strong each Sun on 1609 1900-0300, other broadcasts were heard Fri 30 Mar 2300-0200*, Sat 31 Mar 1430+, Easter Mon 16 Apr 1900-0300*. Fact is when a holiday weekend comes around, Pamela moves it's transmission to the Mon, although at Easter they did appear on the Sun for 1 hour. So this holiday weekend coming (5-7 May) the station will transmit again on the Mon. DJ Rob and Steve Most host the oldies and have fun! Receivable over good distance due to 150 watts and skip, try it! Phone and add under SW available here as well.

Radio Orang Utan could be heard early Easter Sat 0010-0133* on 1615 with strong signals and programmes in Eng. 60s/70s oldies were played including records from Scott McKenzie, Santana, Dr Hook, Byrds, Lynn Anderson, Mungo Jerry and the Small Faces.

Radio Kristal were heard in Leonburg, West Germany Sat 31 Mar 2238-2322* with pop music and anns in English on 1640. A "very good" signal was available.

Radio International from Italy could be heard on Sat 7 Apr in Leonburg on 1620 at 2125-2300+ with pop music and Italian anns. A good signal noted.

UNID heard on Fri 30 Mar 2200-2214 with a good signal, music included Fleetwood Mac and Suzanne Vega. No anns, just back to back music until sign-off.

UNID on Sat 7 Apr 2203-2233+ on 1610(v) with Queen, Pet Shop Boys, OMD and Europe. Anns in Dutch but the channel was not very clear and a fair signal was all we could get at best.

NOTICE: A Finnish Free Radio enthusiast wants to visit pirate stations in the continent and British Isles and Ross Revenge in July 1990. Any information appreciated. Please write to: Mr Anssi Nieminen, Box 82, 40101, Jyvaskyla, Finland.

ANNOUNCEMENT: We must apologise for any mislaid info in this issue but it's becoming more difficult to run the mag. We may have to drop to 8-pages and the cost would go down, perhaps with less of a schedule to. We'll see.